

Message Text

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ORIGIN CU-05

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, BU (SLAVKOV, IVAN)

SUBJECT: EXCHANGES: IVP GRANTEE IVAN SLAVKOV

REF: SOFIA 1130

1. BULGARIAN AMBASSADOR POPOV HAS PROPOSED THAT SLAVKOV AND TOMA TOMOV BE CONSIDERED A "DELEGATION" AND THAT DEPARTMENT PAY FOR TRAVEL AND EXPENSES OF BOTH SLAVKOV AND TOMOV IN US DURING PERIOD OF SLAVKOV'S STAY. IN RETURN US COULD SEND SIMILAR DELEGATION TO BULGARIA WITH US PAYING INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL AND BULGARIAN TV PICKING UP IN-COUNTRY COSTS.

2. EMBASSY HAS NO RPT NO OBJECTION TO EXTENDING TOMOV'S IV GRANT TO ENABLE HIM TO ACCOMPANY SLAVKOV. COST WOULD BE APPROXIMATELY DOLS 1100 AND WOULD COME FROM POST'S 75

PROGRAM FUNDS. PLEASE ADVISE SOONEST EMBASSY CONCURRENCE.

3. RE POPOV'S PROPOSAL FOR EXCHANGE OF TV DELEGATIONS, DEPT WISHES AVOID TYING ITS INTERNATIONAL VISITOR PROGRAM TO RECIPROCAL VISITS BY AMERICANS TO BULGARIA IN SAME PROFESSIONAL FIELDS. WHILE WE WELCOME BULGARIAN OFFER TO PAY LOCAL COSTS FOR AMERICANS PROPOSED BY DEPT, WE WOULD
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PREFER TO HAVE FLEXIBILITY IN SELECTING PROFESSIONAL

FIELDS AND, OF COURSE, NOMINATING INDIVIDUALS. IN THIS

CASE, HOWEVER, SINCE RECIPROCITY HAS BEEN OFFERED ON
BEHALF OF BULGARIAN TV, THERE WOULD APPEAR TO BE NO
OPTION FOR OTHER PROFESSIONAL FIELD.

4. WE PROPOSE TO INFORM POPOV THAT WE SHALL DESIGNATE
SLAVKOV-TOMOV VISIT AS "DELEGATION". WE ALSO ACCEPT HIS
PROPOSAL FOR A RETURN US DELEGATION TO BULGARIA, BUT WILL
LEAVE QUESTION OF SPECIFIC FIELDS OF INTEREST, ETC. TO
LATER DISCUSSION. REQUEST EMBASSY VIEWS, PARTICULARLY
CONCERNING PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS OF RETURN
"DELEGATION". KISSINGER

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